



*German Studies Center
Tongji University Shanghai*

*School of Political Science and
International Relations
Tongji University Shanghai*

Lecture and Discussion

“Cabling Europe: Submarine Network Security and the Limits of International Agreement in the 19th Century”

Prof. Douglas Howland

Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Thursday, May 12th, 2016, 13:30-15:00 PM

Venue: Zonghe Building 1402

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Program

Language: English

Moderator: Prof. Maximilian Mayer (German Studies Center for Tongji University)
Prof. Wang Chuanxing (School of Political Science and International Relations)

13.30	<i>Introduction</i> Maximilian Mayer , German Studies Center for Tongji University
13.40	<i>Lecture “Cabling Europe: Submarine Network Security and the Limits of International Agreement in the 19th Century”, Douglas Howland</i> , University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
14.30	<i>Questions and discussion, moderated by Wang Chuanxing</i>
15.00	End of event

About the lecture:

European efforts to safeguard submarine cables from damage caused by fishing vessels succeeded in 1884, with the ratifying of the Convention for the Protection of Submarine Cables. But efforts to protect cables from damage in warfare failed repeatedly in the 19th century, because the right of the belligerent in war overruled any agreement to neutralize submarine cables. This lecture examines the deliberations on behalf of cable security between 1864 and 1907, and argues that the great powers, diplomats, and international lawyers were committed more to their rights in war than to the security of international communications. These historical deliberations and their result are highly significant for today's global cyber security. In fact, the 1884 Convention for the Protection of Submarine Cables is still the only piece of international law that exists today for the protection of the submarine network of internet cables. The internet system, hence, is still vulnerable to war.

Douglas Howland is Professor of Chinese History at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. His interests include Westernization in East Asia, international law and state sovereignty in China and Japan, and liberalism, and popular sovereignty in the 19th century. He is author of four books on China and Japan in the 19th century, including *International Law and Japanese Sovereignty: The Emerging Global Order in the Nineteenth Century* (2016), *Personal Liberty and Public Good: The Introduction of John Stuart Mill to Japan and China* (2005), *Translating the West: Language and Political Reason in Nineteenth-Century Japan* (2001), *Borders of Chinese Civilization: Geography and History at Empire's End* (1996), as well as co-editor of *The State of Sovereignty: Territories, Laws, Populations* (2008). Howland holds a Ph.D. in History from The University of Chicago.